

Geography Phase One Curriculum



Curriculum Intent

At Trinity Academy St. Edwards, our KS3 Geography curriculum is meticulously designed to instil a profound commitment to understanding the world and our place in it. Rooted in our core values of **generating awe and wonder, inspiring stewardship, appreciating diverse cultures and faiths, and comprehending our interconnectedness with others**, our curriculum aims to mould students into empowered and enlightened geographers. We foster awe and wonder by immersing students in captivating, real-world case studies and experiences. From unravelling the mysteries of natural wonders to investigating the impacts of human activities on diverse landscapes, we create an environment that sparks curiosity, encouraging students to ask questions and develop a lifelong love for learning. Inspiring stewardship is a crucial aspect of our curriculum. By integrating topics that highlight the delicate balance between human activities and environmental sustainability, students engage in projects that promote environmental responsibility and explore solutions to global challenges. This approach instils a sense of stewardship, empowering students to become informed, active citizens committed to preserving the environment for future generations. Our commitment to appreciating different cultures and faiths is reflected in our curriculum's integration of diverse case studies, mapping exercises, and discussions. By exploring the rich tapestry of cultures worldwide, students develop a global perspective, fostering tolerance, empathy, and an appreciation for the diversity that enriches the human experience. Understanding our place in the context of others is a cornerstone of our curriculum. Through comparative studies and collaborative projects, students explore how local and global issues intersect, encouraging critical thinking and recognition of their roles within the broader global community. This approach develops a sense of global citizenship, empowering students to contribute positively to local and global challenges. We envision a 'geographer' as someone possessing not only a solid understanding of geographical concepts but also a set of skills and attributes extending beyond the classroom. A geographer at Trinity Academy St. Edwards is curious, analytical, empathetic, informed, and responsible. By cultivating these qualities, we aim to prepare students to navigate an interconnected world, contribute meaningfully to society, and become lifelong learners equipped to address the challenges and opportunities ahead. Our goal is to nurture geographers who, armed with knowledge and empathy, will shape a more sustainable and interconnected future.

Overview

The KS3 Geography curriculum from Year 7 to Year 9 offers a structured and comprehensive exploration of geographical concepts through a spiralled approach, reinforcing and expanding knowledge progressively. Year 7 introduces foundational topics such as "UK and Global Ecosystems," where students learn about ecosystem components and compare environments, and "Climate Change," which covers the science and impact of climate shifts. Year 8 builds on this foundation with a focus on extreme environments and urban issues, such as the "Extreme Environments: The Middle East" topic, which compares adaptations in hot and cold climates, and "Urban Areas in the UK," which explores challenges and opportunities in cities. This prepares students for a deeper analysis in Year 9, where topics like "Population Change" and "Natural Hazards" examine demographic trends, migration, and the impacts of extreme weather events through case studies like Haiti and Japan. "Extreme Environments: Russia" and "Extreme Weather" extend the study of adaptations

and weather patterns, while "Sustainable Development Goals" assesses global efforts to address social, economic, and environmental challenges. Finally, "Coasts" explores coastal processes and defences, linking human and natural interactions. The curriculum's progression ensures students build on their understanding of ecosystems, urban dynamics, and global issues, applying their knowledge to real-world situations and preparing them for more advanced studies. By integrating case studies and sustainable development, the curriculum fosters a global perspective and problem-solving skills, linking theoretical knowledge with practical applications.

Year 7

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
What skills does a Geographer need?	Climate Change	The Sahel: West Africa	Glaciers in the UK	UK and global ecosystems	Weather and Climate
In this Key Stage 3 Geography topic, students will explore the essential skills geographers need, focusing on map reading and interpretation. They will learn how to use different types of maps, including OS maps, and understand symbols, scale, and grid references. The topic will also help them develop skills in using compasses and interpreting geographical data. By	In the KS3 Geography topic "Climate Change," students will explore the science behind the greenhouse effect, learning how gases like carbon dioxide and methane trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. They will examine both natural and human-caused factors contributing to climate change, such as deforestation, fossil fuels, and industrial activities. Students will also study the consequences of	In the KS3 Geography topic "The Sahel: West Africa," students will learn about the challenges faced by this semi-arid region, including desertification, conflict, and climate change. They will explore how these issues affect local communities and ecosystems, examining the relationship between the environment and human activity. The study will include learning about the	In the KS3 Geography topic "Glaciers in the UK," students will explore how glaciers have shaped the landscape, particularly focusing on the Peak District. They will study glacial processes, such as erosion, transportation, and deposition, learning how glaciers carved valleys, created features like U-shaped valleys and moraines, and influenced the physical geography of the region. Additionally,	In the KS3 Geography topic "UK and Global Ecosystems," students will explore the key components of ecosystems, including producers, consumers, and decomposers, and how these elements interact to sustain life. They will study different types of ecosystems, such as rainforests, deserts, and temperate woodlands, and compare these with local UK ecosystems, like woodlands, moorlands, and wetlands. The topic	In the KS3 Geography topic "Weather and Climate," students will explore the difference between weather, the short-term conditions in the atmosphere, and climate, the long-term patterns over time. They will learn how to interpret climate graphs to understand temperature and rainfall trends in different regions. The topic will also cover the science behind weather

examining Barnsley, their local area, in the context of the wider world, students will gain an understanding of geographical location, human and physical features, and how places are interconnected globally. These foundational skills are essential for further geographical study.	climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme weather, and impacts on ecosystems. The topic will cover how different countries and communities adapt to these changes, from renewable energy solutions to building resilient infrastructure, highlighting the need for global action and sustainability.	traditional ways of life of tribes in the region, such as the Tuareg and Fulani, and how they adapt to the harsh conditions. Students will also investigate the fragile ecosystems found in the Sahel and the importance of sustainable solutions for the future.	students will investigate how the unique landscapes formed by glaciers have contributed to the development of tourism in the Peak District, attracting visitors for activities like hiking and sightseeing, and the economic benefits this brings to local communities.	will also cover biodiversity, food chains, and how human activities affect ecosystems globally and locally. By the end, students will understand the importance of conserving ecosystems and the impact of environmental changes on these vital systems	events, such as how air pressure, wind, and ocean currents influence storms, rainfall, and temperature changes. By studying various weather phenomena, students will gain a deeper understanding of how weather patterns are formed and their impact on different environments and human activities.
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Year 8

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Extreme Environments: The Middle East	Extreme Environments: Russia	Hydrology in the UK	Coasts in the UK	Urban areas in the UK	Urban growth in Mumbai
In the KS3 Geography topic "Extreme Environments: The Middle East," Year 8 students will explore	In the KS3 Geography topic "Extreme Environments: Russia," Year 8 students will explore the unique	In the KS3 Geography topic "Hydrology in the UK," Year 8 students will examine the behaviour and	In the KS3 Geography topic "Coasts," Year 8 students will study Britain's diverse coastline, exploring the	In the KS3 Geography topic "Urban Areas in the UK," Year 8 students will explore the challenges and	In the KS3 Geography topic "Urban Growth in Mumbai," Year 8 students will explore the rapid urbanisation

<p>the region's harsh weather and climate, characterised by extreme heat and aridity. They will learn how humans, plants, and animals have adapted to survive in such challenging conditions. The topic will focus on the Bedouin tribe, examining their traditional nomadic lifestyle and how they thrive in the desert environment. Students will also study the unique ways in which animals and plants conserve water and endure the hot climate, gaining insight into the resilience of life in one of the world's most extreme regions</p>	<p>challenges of Russia's harsh, cold climates, comparing these with the extreme heat studied in Year 8. They will examine how humans, animals, and plants adapt to the severe conditions of the Russian Arctic and Siberia. The topic will include a focus on the Nenets, an indigenous people of northern Russia, and their traditional lifestyle. Additionally, students will investigate how Russia's climate influences its geopolitical strategies and international relations, including issues related to resource access and territorial claims. This topic provides insights into survival and political dynamics in extreme environments.</p>	<p>management of rivers, focusing on river profiles and landforms. They will explore the causes and effects of flooding, learning how hydrographs are used to analyse river flow and flood risks. The topic will cover both hard and soft engineering solutions to manage and mitigate flooding, with specific case studies of Blackpool and Wallasea Island in Essex. Students will understand the various strategies employed to protect these areas from flood damage and assess their effectiveness in managing the impacts of river systems.</p>	<p>various processes shaping coastal landscapes. They will investigate key coastal landforms such as cliffs, beaches, and bays, and understand how processes like erosion, deposition, and longshore drift contribute to their formation. The topic will also cover coastal defences, including both hard engineering solutions, like sea walls and groynes, and soft engineering methods, such as beach nourishment and managed retreat. Students will learn how these defences aim to protect coastal communities and environments from the impacts of coastal erosion and flooding.</p>	<p>opportunities faced by cities such as Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh. They will study issues like housing shortages, traffic congestion, and pollution, alongside opportunities for economic growth, regeneration, and cultural development. Students will also learn about how urban areas are adapting to tackle these challenges through sustainable development, improved public transport, and green spaces. By the end of the topic, they will understand how cities balance economic progress with environmental and social needs, shaping the lives of people across the UK.</p>	<p>of one of India's largest cities. They will study the challenges, such as overcrowding, poverty, and poor infrastructure, particularly focusing on the Dharavi slums. The topic will also highlight the opportunities that urban growth brings, including economic development and job creation. Students will compare these issues with those faced by UK urban areas studied previously, examining similarities and differences in how cities manage urban growth. They will also consider potential solutions to the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation in both local and global contexts.</p>
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Year 9

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Climate Change	The UK Energy Mix	Population Change	Extreme Weather	Sustainable Development Goals	Globalisation
In the KS3 Geography topic "Climate Change," students will explore the science behind the greenhouse effect, learning how gases like carbon dioxide and methane trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. They will examine both natural and human-caused factors contributing to climate change, such as deforestation, fossil fuels, and industrial activities. Students will also study the consequences of climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme weather, and impacts on	In the KS3 Geography topic "The UK Energy Mix," Year 9 students will investigate the sources of energy used in the UK, including fossil fuels, nuclear power, and renewable energy. They will examine issues of energy security and insecurity, considering how the UK's dependence on various energy sources affects its stability and supply. The topic will also explore the importance of transitioning to sustainable energy sources to reduce environmental impact and ensure a reliable future energy supply. Students will learn about the challenges and opportunities associated with different energy types	In the KS3 Geography topic "Population Change," Year 9 students will explore the factors influencing how and why populations change. They will study the Demographic Transition Model to understand shifts in birth and death rates over time. The topic will cover migration patterns and their effects on population growth and distribution. Students will analyse population pyramids to examine age structures and the implications of ageing populations. Additionally, they will investigate the impacts of rapid urban growth on cities and resources. Through these studies, students will gain	In the KS3 Geography topic "Extreme Weather," Year 9 students will study various types of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, heatwaves, and severe storms. They will explore the causes behind these phenomena and their wide-ranging consequences on communities and environments. The topic will also cover strategies for defence and mitigation, including early warning systems and emergency response plans. Students will examine the impact of climate change on the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events,	In the KS3 Geography topic "Sustainable Development Goals," Year 9 students will explore the 17 global goals established by the United Nations to address social, economic, and environmental challenges. They will examine each goal's objectives, such as eradicating poverty, promoting quality education, and combating climate change. The topic will cover how these goals aim to improve quality of life, ensure equitable resource distribution, and protect the environment. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of these goals by analysing progress, successes,	In the KS3 Geography topic "Globalisation," Year 9 students will explore how the world has become increasingly interconnected through trade, technology, and communication. They will examine how globalisation has shaped economies, cultures, and societies, bringing both positive and negative impacts. The topic will cover its effects on local, national, and global levels, from the growth of multinational companies to changes in jobs and lifestyles. Students will also learn about the environmental and social consequences of globalisation, such as inequality and resource

ecosystems. The topic will cover how different countries and communities adapt to these changes, from renewable energy solutions to building resilient infrastructure, highlighting the need for global action and sustainability.	and the role of government policies in shaping the UK's energy landscape.	insights into the complex dynamics of population change and its global and local consequences.	understanding how shifting weather patterns pose new challenges and require adaptive measures to protect people and infrastructure.	and shortcomings in various regions. This will help them understand the complexities of sustainable development and the global effort needed to achieve these ambitious targets.	use, while considering how this process influences their everyday lives and the wider world.
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